

REMARKS

The statement in the outstanding Office Action that claims 1 and 3-11 are allowed is appreciated. As a result, claims 12-20 are canceled by this amendment. Because the only claims remaining in this application are allowed claims 1 and 3-11, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance.

The outstanding Office Action includes a rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In view of the cancellation of claim 13, it is understood that this rejection has been rendered moot, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

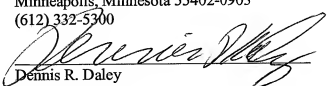
The outstanding Office Action includes four prior art-based rejections. Claims 12-14, 16-17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,003,950 to Larsson. Claim 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Larsson and U.S. Patent No. 3,736,022 to Radke. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Larsson and U.S. Patent No. 6,857,697 to Brenna. Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Larsson and U.S. Patent No. 6,109,688 to Worz. In view of the above amendment canceling claims 12-20, it is believed that the rejections have been rendered moot, and withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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